

Event/Festival Of The Year:

Sarah Lundberg Summer School.
A celebration of the life of Philip Chevron. It is important that our history gets documented and we continue to tell stories of events that have helped shape the current music culture of Ireland. Philip Chevron is one such important character. This event, told tales, shared memories sang songs and tributes rang out from all quarters.

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High Hopes For:

Smaller DIY venues and gigs popping up all around the country. Towns like Ballina, Tullamore and Drogheda are starting to have regular punk shows

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A Notable Mention:

U:Mack keeps putting on great gigs in Dublin and **Rotator Vinyl** and **Paranoid Visions** are still a shining beacon for DIY punk rock in this country. Still as active and as enthusiastic as ever.

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 **Paul McDermott - Features/Columnist**

Irish Song Of The Year:

Niall Connolly - 'Distracted'
One of the standout songs from US-based Connolly's 8th album, the great **The Patience of Trees**. The brilliant line, "I was undercover as myself" has been stuck in my head since June.

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Irish Album Of The Year: :

All of This is Chance by **Lisa O'Neill**, **KoImas** by **Slow Moving Clouds** and **Under the Skin** by **SELK** were all firm favourites but **False Lankum** by **Lankum** definitely got more spins than any other Irish release this year.

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Irish Gig Of The Year:

Boa Morte at the National Sculpture Factory.

Boa Morte performed songs from **The Total Space** - one of the albums of the year - in the National Sculpture Factory in Cork. Working with renowned visual artist Peter Power and lighting designer Hanan Sheedy, the band created a genuinely unique mid-summer event on the Factory floor of the old Victorian Tramway building. Truly spellbinding.

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International Song Of The Year:

Big Thief - 'Vampire Empire'

"You give me chills, I've had it with the drills, I am nothing, you are nothing, we are nothing with the pills." Just beautiful, another masterpiece from Big Thief.

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International Album OTY:

Craven Faults - Standers
The second album from the Yorkshire-based producer. Another analogue electronic journey across the bleak landscapes of the Pennines. Spectacular.

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Event/Festival Of The Year:

Night and Day, Lough Key Forest Park, Co. Roscommon.

A small, well organised, family-friendly festival on the shores of beautiful Lough Key. Highlights included **The Pale**, **God Alone**, **Pillow Queens**, **Gruff Rhys**, and a blistering midnight set from **Mercury Rev**.

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High Hopes For:

I Dreamed I Dream
Why Say a Lot? is the Cork-based "no-punk bitch-wave" quartet's stunning debut EP. '214' is one of the tunes of the year.

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Notable Mentions:

Pyrrhic by **Elaine Malone** and **Greater Than or Equal To** by **The Bonk** are also deserving of mention, in any other year either of these records could easily have been crowned Irish Album of the Year.

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Nikki Raymond - Reviewer

Irish Song Of The Year:

Æ MAK - 'Shimmer Boy'
brilliant in every way

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Irish Album Of The Year: :

KhakiKid - Sand Bébé, each song as punchy as the next

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Irish Gig Of The Year:

Hozier in The Academy - ethereal

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International Gig Of The Year:

Calvin Harris at Longitude Festival - a feast for the ears and the eyes

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International Album OTY:

Lemon Twigs - Everything Harmony

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Event/Festival Of The Year:

All Together Now Festival - smaller festivals are the place to be these days

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High Hopes For:

Annika Kilkeny - a lyrical genius among us

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A Notable Mention:

Mandinka by **Sinéad O'Connor** - RIP

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